

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 38-56 are pending.

The allowance of claims 38-44, 46 and 49-56 is acknowledged, with appreciation.

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the parent PCT application. As the international filing date of the above-identified application was prior to November 29, 2000, a petition according to Rule 78 is not believed to be required for entry of the Amendment. Moreover, the Patent Office has recognized the existence in relationship of the PCT application of the present application, as noted in the Filing Receipt mailed September 22, 2000. Nothing further is believed to be required in this regard however the Examiner is requested to advise the undersigned if otherwise.

Return of an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form filed with an Information Disclosure Statement on December 6, 2002, pursuant to MPEP Section 609, is requested.

The undersigned notes that the Notification of Acceptance indicates receipt of the priority documents from the International Bureau. Acknowledgement of the same by the Examiner in the Examiner's next communication would be appreciated.

A review of the file indicates that the drawings have not been specifically objected to and are presumed accepted however the Examiner's specific acknowledgement of the same in the Examiner's next communication would be appreciated.

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The claims have been amended above to obviate the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 45 and 47-48. Entry of the above and withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph rejection, along with allowance of all the pending claims, are requested.

The claims are submitted as being in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned however if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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